

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
17 March 2005 (17.03.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/025219 A3**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **H04N 7/14**  
(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/GB2004/003695

(22) International Filing Date: 27 August 2004 (27.08.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
0321083.8 9 September 2003 (09.09.2003) GB

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY** [GB/GB]; 81 Newgate Street, Greater London, London EC1A 7AJ (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **CHATTING, David, John** [GB/GB]; 9 Valley Close, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 4PG (GB). **THORNE, Jeremy, Michael** [GB/GB]; 25 Nottidge Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 2RJ (GB). **MORRISON, David, Geoffery** [GB/GB]; 10 Tylers Green, Trimley, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 0XF (GB).

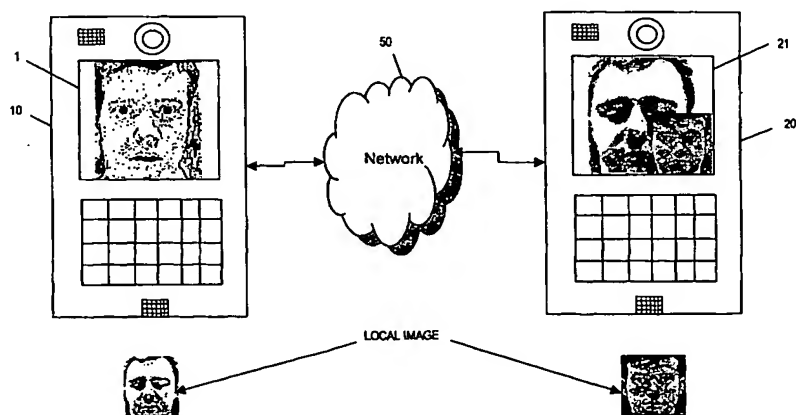
(74) Agent: **CHABASSEUR, Vincent, Robert**; Bt Group Legal Intellectual Property Department, PP C5A, Bt Centre, 81 Newgate Street, Greater London, London EC1A 7AJ (GB).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS METHOD AND SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: The invention provides a method and system wherein first video images are directly overlaid with remote video images to produce a combined video image which is then displayed to the user and/or stored as appropriate. Preferably at least one of the first and/or remote images is subject to an image processing operation prior to the overlay operation being performed, the image processing operation being such that the scenes contained within the images to be overlaid when processed are separably distinguishable to a user within the combined video image when viewed by the user. The overlay operation is performed such that the scenes contained within the respective video images are substantially in alignment on top of each other. By overlaying the respective first and remote video images as described a single image is obtained within which the respective scenes of the respective first and remote images are still separably distinguishable, but which is still of an appropriate size for display on a screen of limited size without occlusion of one or other of the images.

WO 2005/025219 A3



**Published:**

— *with international search report*

**(88) Date of publication of the international search report:**

12 May 2005

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*